



NATIONAL MAIL ORDER PHARMACY AND SENIOR PHARMACY PROGRAMS

National Mail Order Pharmacy (NMOP)

For prescriptions you take regularly - such as medication to reduce blood pressure, or to treat asthma or diabetes - the most convenient TRICARE pharmacy option is the National Mail Order Pharmacy. **You will save money and time by filling your prescriptions through the mail instead of going to a retail pharmacy.**

The Department of Defense National Mail Order Pharmacy is administered by Merck-Medco Rx Services. Through this program, **you simply mail your health care provider's written prescription along with your copay to the National Mail Order Pharmacy, and your medications will be sent to you.** Refills are a snap via mail, phone or Internet - whichever method you prefer.

For more NMOP related information, please visit the TRICARE web site at http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/mail_order.htm.

TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program

The new Tricare Senior Pharmacy Program officially began operation on April 1 for an estimated 1.4 million potentially eligible uniformed Services beneficiaries age 65 years and older. **The Tricare Senior Pharmacy Program is a comprehensive drug benefit not provided under traditional Medicare.**

"This new pharmacy benefit will greatly assist our beneficiaries by standardizing copayments and lowering the cost of generic medications. Our senior **beneficiaries will benefit from this program by having access to medications with lower out-of-pocket expenses,**" said Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. J. Jarrett Clinton.

By law, **to use the Tricare retail and mail order benefit, beneficiaries age 65 and over must be eligible for Medicare Part A and enrolled in Part B** (exception: those who turned 65 before April 1, 2001, are eligible for the benefit, even if they are not enrolled in Medicare Part B). For more information on enrollment requirements for Medicare Part B, the toll-free number for Medicare is (800) MEDICARE or (800) 633-4227.

Beneficiaries also must be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). Beneficiaries who are unsure about their DEERS enrollment status or eligibility for

this program may contact the toll-free Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office Beneficiary Line at (800) 538-9552 for assistance. The call center is open weekdays (Monday through Friday) from 6 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Pacific Time.

Pharmacy Copayments Simplified

At the same time, DoD is also simplifying the prescription copayments for all eligible beneficiaries (other than Active Duty members who do not pay prescription copayments), reducing the different copayment possibilities from about 30 to three.

The new Tricare pharmacy benefit offers a straightforward co-payment structure and the following four dispensing options listed in order of cost/value to the beneficiary:

Military Treatment Facility Pharmacy. Military treatment facility (MTF) pharmacies will continue to fill prescriptions written by either military or civilian prescribers for medications listed on the MTF's formulary. There is no co-payment or out-of-pocket expense for prescriptions filled at the MTF.

National Mail Order Pharmacy (NMOP). Prescriptions filled through the NMOP will be \$3 for up to a 90-day supply of most generic medications, or \$9 for up to a 90-day supply of most non-generic medications.

NOTE: More NMOP information is available online at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tricare/nmopp.html> and <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy>.

Retail Network Pharmacy. Prescriptions filled at a retail network pharmacy will be \$3 for a 30-day supply of most generic medications or \$9 for a 30-day supply of most non-generic medications.

Retail Non-network Pharmacy. At non-network pharmacies, beneficiaries will pay either \$9 or 20 percent of the total cost (whichever is greater), for a 30-day supply of a medication after they have met the Tricare annual deductible. The standard deductible is \$150 per individual and \$300 per family (for E-4 and below \$50 per individual and \$100 per family). Beneficiaries enrolled in **Tricare Prime** must meet a \$300 per individual and \$600 per family deductible and pay a 50% cost share should they choose to utilize a non-network pharmacy. Both deductibles and co-payments are applied toward the beneficiary's Tricare catastrophic cap.

To use the retail pharmacy benefit beneficiaries should show the pharmacy a current Uniformed Services Identification (ID) card. To update an outdated ID card, beneficiaries may call toll-free (877) DOD-MEDS or (877) 363-6337 to locate the closest military ID card issuing activity. The call center is open weekdays (Monday through Friday) from 7 a.m.-11 p.m. Eastern Time.

In February and March, Tricare's regional contractors sent a mailing to Medicare-eligible military

beneficiaries worldwide. The mailing included a Tricare Senior Pharmacy Program brochure, local pharmacy directories, NMOP brochures and NMOP registration forms. **For more information on the Tricare Senior Pharmacy Program**, see the Military Health System/Tricare Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy>.

Civilian pharmacies that are approved by TRICARE are known as "retail network pharmacies"

To locate TRICARE retail network pharmacies in your area, directories are available online. Visit http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/retail_network.htm and click on the applicable state to get to your TRICARE region and the location of the nearest retail network pharmacy.

To use a retail network pharmacy, you must present your written prescription, along with your military identification card.

If you have difficulties getting your prescriptions filled at a TRICARE retail network pharmacy, contact the nearest TRICARE service center or the Beneficiary Counseling Assistance and Coordinator (BCAC) assigned to your area.

If you're not sure of the location of your nearest TRICARE service center, go to <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tricareservicecenters/default.cfm> and click on your TRICARE region (if known) or select the applicable state from the map that's provided.

A BCAC directory is also available online at http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tricare/beneficiary/update_bcac_dir.doc

If you have questions about the new pharmacy program, please contact the toll-free Help Desk that's available at 1-877-363-6337. The Help Desk is available weekdays from 0700-2300 (EST).

Regards, FL Ames

Another site especially useful for TRICARE information is <http://www.mytricare.com>. In addition to providing a lot of information concerning TRICARE, this site allows members, after enrolling, to access, review and track their own individual claims online. Especially for those with a large number of claims surrounding certain treatments, you may find this to be much easier and faster than calling TRICARE direct.



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